

REMARKS

The Office Action indicated that the subject matter of Claims 9-11 was allowed.

After reviewing the allowed claims and the broad interpretation of the cited references, it is believed that the rejected Claims 1-8 were considered to be unbounded on the perimeter of the opening, thereby permitting the *Murai et al.* reference to be broadly construed so that the clear teaching of flat sections could be disregarded and only sloping sections were considered.

Applicant has, accordingly, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.116, reformed the independent Claim 1 to the same limitation of Claim 9 with the respective first and second short edges and the first and second long edges, which collectively form the entire perimeter of the small opening.

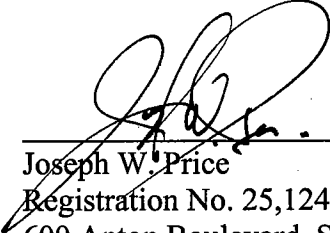
Additionally, applicant has removed the terminology "diameter" in defining the small opening which is potentially inaccurate, as it is a small opening closer to a rectangular configuration rather than a circular configuration suggested by the terminology "diameter."

These limitations do not present any new matter, and it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will assist in the prosecution of this case, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed phone number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



Joseph W. Price
Registration No. 25,124
600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Tel: 714-427-7420
Fax: 714-427-7799